R2780-1

PRRC emerging trends

may 84

Published by the Princeton Religion Research Center Vol. 6, No. 5

Faithfulness In Marriage Viewed As Essential By Most Students

PRINCETON, N.J. – Most college students favor fidelity in marriage according to a NEWSWEEK ON CAMPUS poll conducted by The Gallup Organization.

Two-thirds of students interviewed say that it is "essential" that married couples remain faithful to each other, while another 32% say it is "very important" that they do so. Only 2% say it is "not very important."

The survey also shows:

- Seven in 10 (68%) saying they have engaged in sexual intercourse.
- Sixty-one percent of men and 48% of women saying it is "very helpful" or "probably helpful" for men and women to live together before marriage.
- Twenty percent of men and 32% of women think a person should not have sexual intercourse until after marriage.
- A majority of both men and women think that men have stronger sex drives.
- Six out of 10 say there are significant differences in the way men and women think, but fewer than three out of 10 think one sex is smarter than the other.

Following are the questions and the results in tabular form:

MARITAL FIDELITY

How important is it that married couples remain faithful to each other?

	Total students
Essential	66%
Very important	32
Not important	2

SEXUAL EXPERIENCE

Some people feel that it is important for a man and a woman to live together before marriage, others do not. How helpful do you think living together is?

	Male	Female
Very helpful	24%	18%
Probably helpful	37	30
Doesn't matter	22	24
Probably harmful	12	19
Very harmful	4	8

Which opinion comes closest to your own?

	Male	Female
A person should not have sexual intercourse until after marriage	20%	32%
It's all right to have sexual intercourse with someone you love or feel strongly about even though not married	59	60
It's all right to have sexual intercourse with someone you know well even if you don't feel strongly about each other	15	8
It's all right to have sexual intercourse with someone you just met	6	*

**less than one percent*

SEX DRIVES

In general, do you think that men or women have stronger sex drives?

	Male	Female
Men's sex drive	57%	55%
Women's sex drive	8	5
No difference	35	39

Have you ever engaged in sexual intercourse?

BY SEX

	Total	Male	Female
Yes	68%	76%	59%
No	27	21	34
Not reported	5	3	7

BY AGE

	Total	18 or younger	19-22	23 or older
Yes	68%	50%	69%	84%
No	27	47	26	10
Not reported	3	3	5	6

When did you first engage in sexual intercourse?

	Male	Female
In college	21%	32%
Before college	77	65

How often do you feel guilt or regret about having had sexual intercourse?

	Male	Female
Frequently	2%	6%
Occasionally	11	21
Seldom	35	24
Never	50	47

Check off all the categories which describe the relationship between you and the person (or persons) with whom you have had sexual intercourse. (Respondents could give more than one answer.)

	Male	Female
Someone I was engaged or married to	15%	27%
Someone I was seriously considering marrying	34	46
Someone I date regularly, but was not committed to marrying	61	41
Someone I know/ knew as a friend	29	18
Someone I know/knew casually	17	10
Someone I had just met	17	8
Not reported	3	2

MEN vs. WOMEN

Considering differences which may exist between men and women overall, would you say there are significant differences between the ways in which men and women think?

	Male	Female
Yes	57%	65%
No	43	35

In general, do you think that men or women are more intelligent?

	Male	Female
Men	16%	6%
Women	10	24
No difference	73	70

Who are more assertive in class – men or women?

	Men	Women	No difference
Sex			
Men	31%	40%	29%
Women	23	43	34
Class			
Freshmen	19	53	27
Sophomore	22	45	33
Junior	35	30	33
Senior	37	30	33

For this NEWSWEEK ON CAMPUS POLL, The Gallup Organization conducted 523 personal interviews with full-time college students on 98 campuses nationwide during the period of Sept. 12 to 18, 1983. The margin of error is plus or minus 6 percentage points. Percentages may not add up to 100 because "don't know" responses are eliminated.

REAGAN, POPE JOHN PAUL II CITED BY TEENS AS 'MOST ADMIRED MAN'

For the third consecutive year, President Reagan tops the list of men most admired by the nation's youth, according to the latest Gallup Youth Survey.

Pope John Paul II, who has appeared among the most admired men for the past six consecutive years, finished second to the president.

Many of today's teens, however, appear to have no heroes with a majority (51%) failing to name any man as the one they admire most. Among black teens, however, only 29% could not name someone whom they admire. Instead, their overwhelming choice is the Rev. Jesse Jackson, and their votes in large measure help to propel him into third place on the overall list of most admired men.

The survey respondents in these studies were asked to give their choices without being given a list of names. Popularity was determined by combining the first and second choices obtained from the following questions:

What man that you have heard or read about and is alive today in any part of the world do you admire the most, not including any of your relatives or friends? Who is your second choice?

Following are the choices of teenagers:

(Choices of Teenagers)

1. Ronald Reagan
2. Pope John Paul II
3. Jesse Jackson
4. Edward Kennedy
5. Jimmy Carter
6. Gerald Ford
7. Michael Jackson
8. Walter Mondale
9. Burt Reynolds
10. Jerry Lewis

The results for teenagers are based on telephone interviews with a representative national cross-section of 507 people, ages 13 through 18, conducted from October through December 1983.

By way of comparison, here are the choices of adults, based on a December Gallup Poll:

(Choices of Adults)

1. Ronald Reagan
2. Pope John Paul II
3. Lech Walesa
4. Billy Graham
5. Edward Kennedy
6. Jimmy Carter (Tie)
   Jesse Jackson (Tie)
8. John Glenn
9. Henry Kissinger
10. Walter Mondale

Fourth Of U.S. Adults Have Never In Lives Been 'Very Religious'

One-fourth of U.S. adults today (23%) say that they have never in their lives been "very religious," or put another way, three-fourths of Americans either are, or have been, very religious at some point in their lifetime.

Most likely to say they have *never* been very religious in their lifetime are men (27% say this), Easterners (27%), college graduates (27%), those who feel that God does not have a plan for their lives (51%), and those who have searched "not very hard" (33%) or "not hard at all" (31%) for the meaning of life.

Interestingly, the percentages for Protestants (21%) and Catholics (19%) are virtually the same.

As part of a major survey for the Christian Broadcasting Network – *24 Hours in the Spiritual Life of America* – The Gallup Organization first asked this question:

How important would you say religion is in your life – very important, fairly important, or not very important?

Here are the national results:

IMPORTANCE OF RELIGION – TODAY

Very important	57%
Fairly important	29
Not very important	13
No opinion	1
	100%

Those who said "fairly important" or "not very important" were then asked:

Was there ever a time in your life when religion was very important in your life?

Here are the findings, based on the total sample:

IMPORTANCE OF RELIGION – EVER

Is presently very important	57%
Was very important at some earlier point in life	18
Was never very important	23
No opinion/no answer	2
	100%

Following is a profile of people who have never been very religious during their lifetime:

PROFILE OF THOSE WHO HAVE NEVER BEEN VERY RELIGIOUS

NATIONAL	23%
Men	27
Women	19
Under 30 years	22
30-49 years	20
50 & older	23
East	27
Midwest	22
South	18
West	28
College Grads.	27
College Inc., Tech	23
H.S. Grads.	25
Less than H.S. Grads.	18
God has plan for life	15
Does not have plan for life	51
Searched extremely hard	16
Quite hard	20
Not very hard	33
Not hard at all	31
Protestants	21
Catholics	19

INTERESTED IN CONDUCTING A SURVEY OF YOUR CHURCH?

A growing number of priests, ministers and rabbis have expressed interest in conducting surveys of their congregations and/or local communities.

If you share this interest and would like expert help and advice, we suggest you contact Russell D. Bredholt, Continental Research Associates, 1153 Winged Foot Circle, Winter Springs, Florida 32708. Telephone: (305) 365-4321. Continental Research Associates is affiliated with the Princeton Religion Research Center.

Teens Endorse Marriage, Disapprove Of Divorce

Most teenagers hope to be married someday, but they frown upon divorce. Most want children of their own, but many are uncertain about adopting a child, according to the latest Gallup Youth Survey.

Teenagers are taking increasingly hard stands against divorce, with solid majorities expressing the views that divorce laws are too lax and that divorced couples did not work hard enough to save their marriages.

Three teens in four (75%) say it is too easy to get a divorce. Only 17% believe divorces are too difficult to obtain, and 4% state the ease of getting a divorce is now about right. By comparison in a 1978 Gallup Youth Survey, only a bare majority of 55% of the teens thought that divorces were too easy to get.

NOT TRYING HARD ENOUGH

A similar proportion of teens (74%) now maintains that divorced couples probably did not try hard enough to save their marriages. Only about one teen in five (22%) believes divorced couples did try hard enough. In 1978, 62% believed that divorced couples did not work hard enough to save their marriages.

Opposition to the ease of divorce is even stronger among those teens who are 16 to 18 and at an age when they may very likely be considering their own marriage. Among the older teens, eight in 10 (80%) say divorces are too easy to obtain, and 78% feel divorced couples have not worked hard enough to save their marriages.

Religious practices and beliefs appear to exert strong influence upon the teens' condemnation of the ease of obtaining divorce. Among those teens who attend church regularly, 81% say divorces are too easy to obtain, but only 68% of those not attending church regularly share this view. Stronger opposition to the ease of divorce is found among Roman Catholic teens (80%) than among Protestant youths (71%).

UNCERTAINTY ABOUT ADOPTION

Most teens contemplating marriage would like to have children. When asked about adopting a child, however, there is greater uncertainty. About four in 10 (41%) say they would like to adopt a child, but 28% oppose adoption, and 31% are not sure if they would like to do so. The high level of uncertainty on the matter of adoption may include conditional responses by some teens who would consider adoption only if they could not have children of their own.

Here is how the questions were asked:

Generally speaking, do you think it is too easy or not easy enough for people in this country to get divorced?

Generally speaking, do you think that most people who get divorced have tried hard enough to save their marriages, or not?

Would you like to adopt a child someday?

The results reported here are based on telephone interviews with a representative national cross-section of 502 teenagers, 13 through 18, conducted from January through March.

HOW EASY TO GET A DIVORCE?

	Too easy	About right	Not easy enough	No opinion
NATIONAL	75%	4%	17%	4%
Boys	73	5	18	4
Girls	77	4	15	4
Ages 13 to 15	70	2	22	6
Ages 16 to 18	80	7	12	1
Protestants	71	4	20	5
Catholics	80	3	14	3
Attend church regularly	81	3	12	4
Do not attend regularly	68	6	23	3

DO DIVORCED PEOPLE TRY HARD ENOUGH TO SAVE MARRIAGES?

	Yes	No	No opinion
NATIONAL	22%	74%	4%
Boys	26	71	3
Girls	18	77	5
Ages 13 to 15	25	71	4
Ages 16 to 18	20	78	2
Protestants	22	73	5
Catholics	23	76	1
Attend church regularly	20	76	4
Do not attend regularly	25	73	2

Many Teens Believe In Astrology

About eight in 10 teenagers (79%) say they believe in at least one of eight supernatural phenomena covered in the most recent Gallup Youth Survey.

Belief in angels, extrasensory perception (ESP), and astrology head the list of teen beliefs in phenomena that cannot be explained scientifically.

To a lesser extent, some also believe in clairvoyance and the existence of such creatures as Bigfoot, witches, ghosts, and the Loch Ness monster. Belief in angels has increased from 64% of the teen population in 1978 to 69% in 1984. Young teens, ages 13 to 15, are more likely to believe in angels than are their older brothers and sisters, by a margin of 73% to 65%.

Among those who attend church regularly, three in four (76%) say they believe in angels, but only 61% of those who are not regular church attenders share this belief. This is the only instance among the phenomena studied where churchgoers show a greater tendency than non-attenders to believe in the supernatural.

6 IN 10 TEENS BELIEVE IN ESP

ESP has long been the subject of scientific experimentation but to date the scientific community has remained skeptical about its existence. Despite this, about six teens in 10 (59%) say they believe in ESP. This represents a slight drop from 1978, when 67% said they believed in the phenomenon.

The scientific community in recent years has been alarmed by belief in astrology, which it considers to be totally without scientific merit. Many scientists probably will be disturbed to learn that belief in astrology among teens has risen from 40% in 1978 to 55% in 1984.

Young women (58%) and younger teens (59%) are most prone to consult their horoscopes, but among young men and older teens, the likelihood of starting a conversation with "What sign are you?" diminishes.

Clairoyance, the ability to see into the future or beyond normal sensory range, is thought to exist by nearly three teens in 10.

Belief in supernatural beings appears to be dropping. For many years there have been reports by people claiming to have seen Sasquatch, also known as "Bigfoot," in the Pacific Northwest. Meanwhile, in Scotland, the summer pastime often appears to be reporting glimpses of the Loch Ness monster. Fewer teens, however, now appear to believe in the existence of such creatures.

Belief in Bigfoot is now reported by 24% of the teens, compared to 40% in 1978. During the same period belief in the Loch Ness monster has dropped from 31% to only 18%. Belief in Bigfoot, however, rises to 30% in the West, where the 900-pound, 8-foot-tall creature is alleged to live.

Ghosts and witches are popular as Halloween costumes and the subjects of many films directed to teen audiences, but only about one teen in five believes in them. Interestingly, belief in the demonic characters increases slightly among older teens.

In general, young men are about twice as likely as young women to say they believe in Bigfoot or the Loch Ness monster, and also show a greater tendency to believe there are such things as ghosts or witches.

Above-average students and those from households where the parents are well-educated show no less of a tendency to believe in the supernatural. Indeed, there is a tendency for the educationally advantaged to report above-average belief in such phenomena as ESP, clairvoyance, and witches.

BLACKS ARE MOST SKEPTICAL

Black teens are by far the most skeptical segment of the young population, with only about one in 10 believing in ghosts, witches, or larger-than-life monsters.

Beliefs were measured by responses to the following questions:

Which of the following do you believe in – ghosts, the Loch Ness monster, Sasquatch (Bigfoot), witchcraft, ESP, clairvoyance, angels, astrology?

The results reported here are based on telephone interviews with a representative national cross-section of 502 teenagers, 13 through 18, conducted from January through March 1984.

TRENDS IN BELIEFS

	1984	1978
Angels	69%	64%
ESP	59	67
Astrology	55	40
Clairvoyance	28	25
Bigfoot	24	40
Witchcraft	22	25
Ghosts	20	20
Loch Ness monster	18	31

SUPERNATURAL BELIEFS

	National	Boys	Girls	Ages 13-15	Ages 16-18
Angels	69%	68%	71%	73%	65%
ESP	59	60	59	57	62
Astrology	55	52	58	59	51
Clairvoyance	28	27	28	28	28
Bigfoot	24	34	14	23	25
Witchcraft	22	25	19	20	24
Ghosts	20	22	17	19	21
Loch Ness monster	18	25	10	18	17

Reagan Gets Highest Job Rating From Presbyterians

President Reagan receives his highest job performance rating from the nation's Presbyterians with 72% expressing approval.

The next highest approval vote is give by members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (69%), followed by Episcopalians (66%), Lutherans (65%), Methodists (58%), and Southern Baptists (47%).

This question was asked:

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Ronald Reagan is handling his job as President?

APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE OF REAGAN'S JOB PERFORMANCE

	Approve %	Disap. %	No opinion %
Presbyterians	72	23	5
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	69	28	3
Episcopalians	66	30	4
Lutherans	65	28	7
Methodists	58	34	8
Southern Baptists	47	42	11

The preceding figures are based on interviews with 7,762 adults, 18 and older, interviewed in person between January 13 and April 9.

A major reason for the relatively high approval rating given President Reagan by Presbyterians, Episcopalians, and Lutherans is the basic political orientation of these groups, as seen in the following table, based on Gallup surveys conducted in 1983.

POLITICAL AFFILIATION

	Republicans %	Democrats %	Independents %
ALL PROTESTANTS	29	43	28
Presbyterians	40	32	28
Episcopalians	41	31	28
Lutherans	36	34	30
Methodists	34	39	27
Southern Baptists	18	57	25

(NOTE: Figures not available for members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints due to their small number in the sample.)

EMERGING TRENDS is published monthly except July and August by the PRINCETON RELIGION RESEARCH CENTER. The Center, founded in 1977, is an inter-faith non-denominational research organization with headquarters in Princeton, New Jersey. The PRRC specializes in creative, actionable research, utilizing the worldwide attitudinal and behavioral facilities of Gallup International. The purpose of the PRRC is to gain a better understanding of the nature and depth of religious commitment in the U.S. and abroad and to explore ways this information can enable religious leaders to promote spiritual growth. A one year subscription can be obtained for $30.00; inquire: **Publications Department, P.O. Box 310, 53 Bank Street, Princeton, New Jersey 08542 (Telephone 609/924-9600).**
PLEASE NOTIFY US OF ADDRESS CHANGE.

PRINCETON RELIGION RESEARCH CENTER
P.O. Box 310
53 Bank Street
Princeton, New Jersey 08542

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 20
Hopewell, N.J.
08525

VT

Ms. Jeanne Long
Cong. Info. Serv.
4520 East-West Hwy.
Bethesda, MD 20814

C